



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR

PO BOX 663
HALIFAX NS
B3J 2T3

March 2004 Volume 65 Number 3
club web site is www.halifax-arc.org



Breakfast 9 AM Saturday March 20



HARC Club Station phone number - 490-6421
See the HARC Web site at: <http://www.halifax-arc.org>

Our executive and committees.

Position Name & Call Sign	Phone #	E-Mail
President - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	ve1mr@rac.ca
First V.P. - Fraser MacDougall VE1WO	865-4198	ve1wo@rac.ca
2nd V.P. - Rick Gardiner, VE1RGG		ve1rgg@rac.ca
Secretary - Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
Treasurer - John Goodwin, VE1CDD	865-5731	ve1cdd@rac.ca
Member at Large, Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Club Station Mgr. - Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK		ve1phk@rac.ca
Past President - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	434-8046	ve1ai@rac.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Public Relations: Wayne Harasimovitch, VE1WPH	832-3660	ve1wph@rac.ca
IPARN and Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau Manager -		
Bob Burns, VE1VCK	865-9414	ve1vck@rac.ca
EMO Coordinator - Dave George, VE1AJP	466-8723	dgeorge@is.dal.ca
Reflector editor - Lynn Bowser, VE1ENT	865-8567	ve1ent@rac.ca
Reflector Dist. - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Membership - Tom Caithness, VE1GTC	477-7081	tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca
Web page - Rob Ewert, VE1KS,	826-1705	ewertr@hfx.eastlink.ca
Basic ham course Scott Wood, VE1QD,	823-2761	ve1qd@rac.ca
Callbook 04 Editor Howard Dickson, VE1DHD	823-2024	dhdickson@hfx.eastlink.ca
EMO Trailer Assembly coord - David Musgrave, VE1EDA	435-4333	ve1eda@rac.ca
Flea market 2004 Chair'man - Ed Grace, VE1EGG		
Field Day coordinator - NEEDED		
RAC Asst Director - Wayne Marchand, VE1WJM,	860-1580	ve1wjm@rac.ca
NSARA Director - Barry Diggins, VE1TRI	861-3719	ve1tri @rac.ca
Frequency coordinator for Nova Scotia - Bev Reynolds, VE1TL		

GENERAL INFORMATION

TAKE-15 NET:

Sunday evenings at 8:30 PM on
VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz +
VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz -

PACKET:

VE1NSD - 145.050 MHz LAN NODE
VE1BBS - Local packet BBS
accessible through the LAN

**Deadline for submissions to
the April Reflector is
Saturday, April 10, 2004**

NOTICE

The Reflector will now be available in PDF format. Those wishing to save the club printing and postage can request to receive it by E-mail and print it off on their own printer. Send request to Lynn Bowser at: ve1ent@rac.ca

NOTICE

This will be your last Reflector unless you are a paid up member for 2004

Puzzler - Do You Know?

We all know about vhf, uhf and shf frequencies but at the other end of the scale, what is the lowest regulated radio frequency?

Answer on page

Take-15 Net Controllers

NOTE: There have been some changes.

This will be the rotation. If you cannot take the net on your particular evening get in touch with one of the others and trade places with them. If I have left any one off the list, or you want to join, please let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



Mar. 14	Charles	VE1MCR
Mar. 21	Chris	VA1CDB
Mar. 28	Pierre	VE1PTR
April 4	Herb	VE1HX
April 11	Tom	VE1GTC
April 18	Doug	VE1LDL
April 25	Larry	VA1LW

DownEast Flea Market

When: Saturday May 15, 2003 at 10:00 AM
talk-in on 147.27 +



Where: the HALIFAX FORUM ANNEX (same as last year) Map and directions will be on the HARC website soon

Admission \$3 for everybody



OPEN at 6:00 AM for sellers,
10:00 AM for buyers.

....suggest buyers do breakfast at
Steak & Stein and 3 minute
walk back to the Forum



There will be demonstrations
& displays...

- * RAC will have a table
- * NSARA will have their meeting
- * VE1WZ will represent DARC as our official flea market photo taker.
- * The QSL bureau will be there

Questions? Table reservations....
Contact David S Nimmo, VE1NN
ve1nn@rac.ca

HARC is starting a **Special Interest Group** interested in **digital communication**. The structure is very loose and aims to address topics like interfacing computers and amateur gear as well as communicating via digital modes on VHF, HF and UHF. We will attempt to experiment with as many digital modes, software and hardware as possible.

There are 6 to 8 hams who have already expressed an interest. Like everything else, the more people involved, the fun and the learning increase proportionally. Why not come and join us? Everyone is welcome! No previous experience is required!

If interested, please contact me at ve1cdd@rac.ca or by phone (865-5731).

Date and time of next get-together will be March 22 at 7:30 in the club station

73 John VE1CDD

The club has ordered the **Anderson Powerpole connectors** and they are available now. The price to members will be \$1.25 each (this is a red and black connector for one complete end). To make a complete mating pair will require 2 connectors. To preorder your supply please contact Tom Caithness, VE1GTC by E-mail at:

tom.caithness@ns.sympatico.ca

If we have extra then we may offer them to non members at a slightly higher price.

HELP!

The club needs a number of people to take on occasional small jobs. Sometimes all that is required is a phone call or two, other times arranging to pick up and deliver some thing. What we need is for some one to take on a small task and see it through from beginning to the end. If we have a number of people available then no one person has to do a lot, but it will relieve the executive of many small tasks that have often got lost or delayed due to larger tasks taking over.

Often an executive member will start a task and if it does not move quickly and smoothly then it may bog down when they cannot follow up and it eventually gets forgotten or pushed aside.

MID WINTER AMATEUR BREAKFAST

When: 09:00 AM Saturday, **March 20, 2004**

Where:

HALIFAX STEAK & STEIN
corner Robie & Young Streets, Halifax

Regular Steak & Stein breakfast menu in effect, with a wide variety of choices at reasonable prices. Individual bills will be provided.

Reservations not required, but contact Lynn, VE1ENT, with intentions and rough numbers so that we can set up enough tables.

E-mail to ve1ent@rac.ca or phone (902)-865-8567



The **Club station** is a good space for ham radio activities but **please reserve your date & time** with Station Manager Pat Kavanagh, VE1PHK
E-mail ve1phk@rac.ca
This is to prevent the disappointment of arriving at the Club Station and finding someone else has booked it for the same time you wanted to use it. **So booking with Pat is a must!!**

Are you up to date with your HARC membership dues?

Yearly rates are as follows:

Full = \$25	Associate = \$15
Family (2 members) = \$35 + \$10 for each additional family member at same address (only 1 newsletter)	

On the move? Send your change of address to the
Brit Fader Memorial QSL Bureau P.O. Box 8895
Halifax, N.S. B3K 5M5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 2004



I hope every one got through February OK. Spring is around the corner and we must look at club activities for the good weather. I expect many are looking forward to refurbishing antennas and putting up new ones. Several special interest groups are now running so if you have an interest in these please try to get out to the meetings. I am sure there are announcements elsewhere in the newsletter about these meetings and other club activities.

We have sent off the Field Day 2A plaque for first place in class in Canada to the Richmond BC Amateur Radio Club with a note of congratulations and letting them know we will want it back for winning in 2004. The new plaque for the first place in Canada in the 2 F class sponsored by HARC has been obtained and engraved with HARC as the first winner in 2003.

The members should start thinking about Field Day and what they can do to help out, perhaps in planning, organising some small part or helping check equipment. We will be out in the field this year and are looking for a new field to operate from since we may not be able to get our usual spot. If you have any ideas please let any executive member know and perhaps make an initial contact to see if we could have permission to use the site.

For late breaking news such as the meeting entertainment check the club web site at www.halifax-arc.org or listen to the Take-15 net at 8:30 Sunday evenings on VE1PSR. I hope to see you at the monthly meeting.

73 - Bill Elliott, VE1MR



The next meeting of the APRS group will be March 10th 1930 (7:30 PM) at the club. Please bring your APRS setup with you and a short instructions on how your system works, Hope to see you all there. The APRS group will also meet on April 14 at 7:30 in the club station.

David VE1EDA

The next meeting of the **satellite interest group** will be March 24 at 7:30 in the club station. Come out and see what is happening. If interested, please contact John, VE1CDD at ve1cdd@rac.ca or by phone (865-5731).

Maritime Callbook

2004

Howard (VE1DHD) our 2004 Callbook Editor/Project Manager urges members to become involved in the project by contacting him directly by e-mail at ve1dhd@rac.ca) Or phone 823-2024



Attention new Amateurs

Any new amateurs obtaining their call-signs please let Tom, VE1GTC, know by phone at 477 7081 or e-mail – ve1gtc@rac.ca

*If love is blind
why is lingerie so popular?*

The following is the explanation of the graphics on the cover of the 2004 call book:

The graphics for the cover of this callbook highlight the three Maritime Provinces of NS, NB and PEI along with their respective crests. The map outlines the three provinces as being together, but with their own individual cultures.

Mounted on top of the modern 48 foot Trylon tower is a Mosley Pro-57-B 5 band HF antenna, with a Cushcraft 13B2, 2 meter beam above that.

-The vintage microphone was made by the RCA Victor Division, RCA Manufacturing Company Inc of Camden New Jersey. It is the type 50A inductor microphone made in 1934, which is believed to be the year the Halifax Amateur Radio Club was founded. The club may have originally been called the Maritimes Amateur Radio Club.

The call letters KNX (on the microphone) originally was assigned to Fred Christian, an ex-Marconi ship-board wireless operator. He started up a 5 watt radio station in his Hollywood home, where he was first granted the call letters 6 ADZ, later changed to KGC, and finally to KNX. Christian began broadcasting on September 10, 1920. Radio station KNX 1070 still operates in Hollywood California.

Terry R. Bigelow, VE1TRB

Think about this.... No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.

World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 reached a decision to delete the requirement to prove Morse code ability from the international Radio Regulations, leaving individual administrations to decide if they want to retain it or not.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 08
February 20, 2004

NPR FEATURE SPOTLIGHTS ADDITION OF @ SYMBOL TO MORSE CODE

Some hams may have thought they'd left their transceivers turned on Tuesday, February 17. That's when the popular National Public Radio <<http://www.npr.org>> afternoon news magazine All Things Considered ran a piece about the pending addition of the @ symbol to the official international Morse code lexicon. That's because NPR introduced and closed the nearly four-minute segment with actual CW, catching the ear of many hams.

ARRL Chief Technology Officer Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, conceived of the new character, necessary for transmitting e-mail addresses in CW, among other possible purposes. Assuming approval by International Telecommunication Union <<http://www.itu.int/home/index.html>> member-states, the new character--the first added to the code in many, many years--will be "AC" run together ---.

The new character, Rinaldo says, is both unique in the Morse world as well as a mnemonic (think of an 'a' wrapped in a 'C').

ATC co-host Robert Siegel interviewed ARRL Senior News Editor Rick Lindquist, N1RL, for some background on the change, giving Lindquist an opportunity to mention his passion for mobile CW operation. The short feature, "Morse Code Enters Cyber Age," is available on the National Public Radio Web site,

<http://www.npr.org/rundowns/segment.php?wfId=1680529>

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 08, Feb. 20, '04 Rules and entry packets for the 2004 running of **ARRL Field Day** now are available on the League's Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/>>. Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June--this year June 26-27. The activity begins at 1800 UTC Saturday and ends at 2100 UTC Sunday. There are no rules changes from 2003. Participation in Field Day now is open to all amateurs within IARU Region 2--the Americas. FD stations may contact stations in other regions for point credit, but stations outside Region 2 are not eligible to submit entries.

Alternate Web Browser

Have you thought about using another Web Browser? Why would you want to? To get more security and get away from pop up windows. How about giving Mozilla or Opera a try? I personally use Mozilla but have used Opera in the past. The reason I switched from Opera to Mozilla was curiosity. I am always looking for new programs to try.

From time to time you will run across web pages that are poorly written and will not run under anything but Internet Explorer. There is nothing to stop you from having more than one web browser on your computer. If you do have more than one, you will have to choose one to be your default browser.

Opera (<http://www.opera.com/>) has two versions, the free one and a paid version. The free version has an advertisement window that displays various adds. I believe this is a minor inconvenience to pay for the use of the program.

Mozilla (<http://www.mozilla.org/>), on the other hand has no advertisement.

Spice up your life! Give one of these alternate web browsers a try! After all, you do not eat beans every day.
'73 John, VE1CDD

"in-flight safety lecture"

From a Southwest Airlines employee: "There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only four ways out of this airplane."

Much Like Swamp land in Florida for Sale ... -ed.

Seems like even small amounts of communications savvy can equip crooks to use the Internet and other technology to anonymously and remotely victimize people. For example, how many e-mails have you received asking for help to get large sums of money out of some foreign country or other ... just forward your banking information ... (The "delete key is your best reaction to those.)

Most hams assume that there is always someone listening to Amateur Radio transmission. But do you always keep in mind that detectable and decodable radio signals are transmitted by cell phones, wireless baby monitors, garage door openers, wireless LANS, PC's, radar, sonar, ... and coming soon to a place near you, broadband data transmission over AC power lines.

Then there's your personal paperwork. Many of us are not paranoid enough about protecting the numbers & documents which are the proofs of our legal & financial identity..

A corporate attorney in the U.S. sent the following out to the employees in his company.

" The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name put on them. If someone takes your check book they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name but your bank will know how you sign your checks.

When you are writing checks to pay on your credit card accounts, DO NOT put the complete account number on the "For" line. Instead, just put the last four numbers. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your check as it passes through all the check processing channels won't have access to it.

Put your work phone # on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. Or use your

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Intel Says Chip Speed Breakthrough Will Alter Cyberworld

By JOHN MARKOFF

Feb. 11,2004 — Intel scientists say that they have made silicon chips that can switch light like electricity, blurring the line between computing and communications and presenting a vision of the digital future that will allow computers themselves to span cities or even the entire globe.

The invention demonstrates for the first time, Intel researchers said, that ultrahigh-speed fiberoptic equipment can be produced at personal computer industry prices. As the costs of communicating between computers and chips falls, the barrier to building fundamentally new kinds of computers not limited by physical distance should become a reality, experts said.

The advance, described in a paper to be published on Thursday in the scientific journal Nature, also suggests that Intel, as the world's largest chipmaker, may be able to develop the technology to move into new telecommunications markets.

It will free computer designers to think about the systems they create in new ways, making it possible to conceive of machines that are not located in a single physical place, according to scientists and industry executives. It will also make possible a new class of computing applications based on the possibility of transmitting high-definition video and images hundreds or even thousands of times faster than possible on today's Internet.

"Before, there were two worlds — computing and communications," said Alan Huang, a former Bell Labs physicist, who has founded the Tera-bit Corporation, an optical networking company in Menlo Park, Calif. "Now they will be the same and we will have powerful computers everywhere."

One potential application, he said,

would be an interactive digital television system allowing viewers to watch a sporting event from multiple angles, moving the point of view at will while the game is being played. With only a limited number of digital cameras, it might be possible to synthesize a virtual moveable seat any place in the stadium. Such a feature exists currently in video games, but it is far beyond the capacity of today's digital television transmission systems.

Intel said the technical advance, in which the researchers use a component made from pure silicon to send data at speeds as much as 50 times faster than the previous switching record, is the first step toward building low-cost networks that will move data seamlessly between computers and within large computer systems.

"This opens up whole new areas for Intel," said Mario Paniccia, a an Intel physicist, who started the previously secret Intel research program to explore the possibility of using standard semiconductor parts to build optical networks. "We're trying to siliconize photonics."

The device Intel has built is the prototype of a high-speed silicon optical modulator that the company has now pushed above two billion bits per second at a lab near its headquarters in Santa Clara, Calif. The modulator makes it possible to switch off and on a tiny laser beam and direct it into an ultrathin glass fiber. Although the technical report in Nature focuses on the modulator, which is only one component of a networking system, Intel plans on demonstrating a working system transmitting a movie in high-definition television over a five-mile coil of fiberoptic cable next week at its annual Intel Developer Forum in San Francisco.

"If Intel and other semiconduc-

tor technology companies can develop silicon optically as successfully as they have electronically, then silicon is certainly set to grow in stature as an optical material," Graham Reed, a physicist at the University of Surrey, wrote in a commentary on the Intel paper in Nature. Dr. Reed is the holder of the previous 20-megabit silicon optical switching speed record that Intel shattered.

With this breakthrough, Intel researchers said, they have shown that it should be possible to build optical fiber communications systems using Intel's conventional chipmaking process without resorting to either the exotic materials or hand-assembly techniques that are now the standard in the fiberoptics networking industry.

Courtesy of Bob Swinwood, VE1PQ

NASA Science News for February 20, 2004

Giant Jupiter is a source of strange-sounding radio noises. Now anyone can listen to them, live, using a NASA-sponsored audio stream on the Internet.

FULL STORY at

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2004/20feb_radiostorms.htm?list969122

Check out our RSS feed at <http://science.nasa.gov/rss.xml>!

Home page: <http://science.nasa.gov>

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 07, February 13, 2004

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haughton, VE3FRH, has announced that due to a delay in the delivery of the primary payload to the launch site in Kazakhstan, the **launch** of the **ECHO satellite** has been **delayed** by some three months. "The 'official' launch date is now June 29, 2004," Haughton said. "I assume that this new date is the start of the new launch window, which may last several weeks."--AMSAT-NA

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the General Monthly
Meeting of February 18, 2004**

The meeting was called to order at 1930 hrs Wednesday, February 18, 2004 by President Bill Elliott, VE1MR, with 23 full members 2 associate members and 2 guests in attendance.

Executive in attendance:

President Bill Elliott (VE1MR); First vice-president Fraser MacDougal, VE1WO; Second vice-president Rick Gardiner; VE1RGG; Treasurer John Goodwin, VE1CDD; Station Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK and Past-President Dick, VE1AI.

Silent Keys: No silent keys were reported

Guests: Guests present were Carol Johnston and Zeb Stall who are interested in learning more about amateur radio.

Minutes of the January meeting:
Approval of the minutes as published in the HARC Reflector was moved by George, VE1CAW, seconded by Jim, VE1SFX. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer John Goodwin, VE1CDD, gave the Treasurer's report and stated that HARC's end of January bank balance is \$3095.19. Approval of the Treasurer's report was moved by Jim, VE1SFX, and seconded by Dave, VE1NN. Motion carried.

1) President's Report: President Bill, VE1MR, reported that:

- We need a volunteer for Field Day coordinator so that HARC can participate in Field Day 2004.

Craig, VE1JMA, has volunteered to be co-coordinator for Field Day 2004 but cannot do it alone.

- The organizers of the 6th annual International Search & Rescue Competition have asked us to do a special event station for their event tentatively dated September 9 to 11, 2005. (Similar to what SONRA did last year) We need a coordinator for this special event station.

- We need a coordinator for the ba-

sic amateur radio course for fall 2004. Scott, VE1QD, who coordinated last year's course will be away but will provide information before he goes.

We need a coordinator soon to begin early advertising of the course. Dick, VE1AI said that Scott has assembled a lot of useful material.

2) 1st Vice President Report: Fraser, VE1WO had nothing to report.

3) 2nd Vice President's Report: Rick, VE1RGG reported that the door prize is a small-parts organizer.

4) Station Manager Pat Kavanaugh, VE1PHK reported that 3 groups of guides are scheduled to come in to the Club station for GOTA (Guides on the Air) Saturday, Feb. 21. Enough operators are scheduled to participate but anyone interested is welcome to come up to the station after our Breakfast on Saturday morning.

5) As Howard, VE1DHD was absent due to weather and travel distance there was no Secretary's report.

Committee Reports:

1) Membership, in the absence of Tom, VE1GTC, there was no membership report.

2) Search and Rescue - Dave, VE1AJP, reported that

things have been quiet with no search and rescue events occurred over the previous month.

Sambro Inshore Rescue is now on 800MHz TMR and paging.

HRM Fire successfully cut over to TMR on Monday and now have use of the mutual aid frequency.

EMO - Dave, VE1AJP, advised all present to be prepared for EMO call out resulting from the blizzard.

3) Flea Market - Dave, VE1NN, reported that table reservations are about the same as this time last year. Ads have been sent out to TCA. Conflict with the Dayton hamfest prevents commercial dealers from attending. The Search & Rescue "bus" will be there.

Flea Market brochures have been printed but weren't available this

evening.

4) Callbook: Fraser, VE1WO, reported that e-mails had been sent out to ham clubs about bulk orders. 20 individuals have pre-ordered books, Notice will be on the NSARA web site. Fraser will send an e-mail to Rob, VE1 to put on the HARC web site. Book prices are:
1 for \$12; 2 for \$22; 3 for \$30;
25 to 49 @ \$9.50 per book;
50 to 99 @ \$9.00 per book;
100 and up for \$8.50 per book

5) Special Interest Groups - John, VE1CDD, announced that the following Special Interest Group meetings will be held at the Club station:
Digital - Monday, February 23 at 7:30PM

Satellite - Wednesday, February 25 at 7:30PM

Bill, VE1MR noted that the APRS group had a good meeting last week

Old Business:

Budget 2004 - Bill, VE1MR, introduced the budget for its required second vote and there was some discussion as he went over the budgets line items. It was particularly noted that one third the estimated \$6K profit from the callbook will be used each year for the next 3 years for club purposes. And yes, the callbook profit is needed for HARC to continue with the variety of projects and activities we pursue. It was moved by Dick, VE1AI, seconded by Barry, VE1TRI, that the proposed budget be accepted. Motion carried.

The HARC Reflector is now available by e-mail and Bill, VE1MR, noted that cost of its distribution has already been reduced as some members have already asked to receive the HARC Reflector by e-mail.

New Business:

Bill, VE1MR, offered the HARC a complete 6 meter repeater at a cost of \$499 to foster 6m. activity in the local area. May be installed at Cowie Hill perhaps on one of the existing ports of the RLC3 controller or perhaps stand alone.

Rob, VE1KS, asked if intermod

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Minutes (Continued from page 6)

checks had been done on Cowie Hill. No, but Pat, VE1PHK, who lives very near the Cowie Hill site has detected no intermod.

It was moved by Barry, VE1TRI, seconded by Jim, VE1SFX, that HARC purchase this 6 meter repeater. Motion carried.

Bill, VE1MR said that we can install a UHF repeater (which HARC already owns) at Cowie Hill for less than \$100. It was moved by Dick, VE1AI, seconded by Bob, VA1TX, to approve up to \$100 expenditure to install a UHF repeater at Cowie Hill. Dick, VE1AI, encouraged UHF capability growth. Diversity will reduce occurrence of intermod at the EOC. He encouraged anyone looking to buy a new radio to choose a dual band radio. Most at this meeting indicated that they already have UHF capable equipment.

Lynn, VE1ENT, reminded members of the Breakfast Saturday, Feb. 21, 9AM at the Steak & Stein, Young St., Halifax.

Business from the floor:

Bob, VE1PQ, asked about the re-evaluation of Bloomfield Center. (HRM is examining whether to continue to maintain and keep the Bloomfield Center open.)

Last month Bill, VE1MR and John, VE1CDD, and other Bloomfield tenants met with an independent evaluator. His report is due out mid-March. Bill said that EMO Coordinator Barry Manuel is putting us in touch with the HRM property manager so we will be early on the list for a new spot should HRM decide to close Bloomfield Center.

146.94 repeater - The antenna on the other CBC tower to which we hope to be permitted to connect is located about 360 ft. up.

Power for the VE1DAR repeater (Dustin St., Dartmouth) should be turned on soon according to information from Barry Manuel.

RAC - Dave, VE1NN, reported RAC call signs were available for use (VE1RAC, VA1RAC, VO1RAC,

VO2RAC, VE9RAC, VY2RAC). RAC HQ will do all QSL'ing .

Bill, VE1MR, passed around a list of new surplus items available through Al Prosser, Nova Communications. Al had asked for that people be informed by word-of-mouth due as the source is commercial.

Nigel, VE1NPS, announced that he has APRS information sheets.

Door Prize: The door prize, a small-parts organizer, was won by Terry, VE1TRB



There was no 50:50 Draw:

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Bob, VE1PQ.

Entertainment for tonight: After refreshments and socializing most of us went to Halifax Radio for a tour. Rick, VE1RGG gave directions to Halifax Radio. Rick was able to also give transportation for the tour to our 2 guests and Jim, VE1SFX.

Respectfully submitted by
Lynn, VE1ENT, acting Secretary

He who laughs last thinks slowest

The HARC Reflector is also available on the web (a little after the paper copy) courtesy of Rob Ewert, VE1KS, by connecting to www.halifax-arc.org (colour photos in the web version)

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work address.

Never have your Social Insurance Number printed on your checks (DUH!) If you have it printed, anyone can get it.

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc., You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel.

Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either

here or abroad.

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Insurance Number, credit cards, etc.

Unfortunately I, an attorney, have first hand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thief or thieves ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily.

File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But perhaps most important:

Call the national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name.

The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert.

Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend. (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

Scenes from the NSARA picnic, August 2003 at the CFB Greenwood picnic park

(Left) Socializing as we munched hotdogs, hamburgers and sweet, tender corn on the cob (picked-that-morning)

*Now don't
these pictures
make you yearn for
summer? -ed.*

(Below) Dave, VE1NN,
and Barry, VE1TRI, prepare
their equipment for
the foxhunt
(which they won)

The NSARA web site is at...
<http://users.auracom.com/nsara/>

New URL for the Summerside ARC
<http://www.summersidearc.com>

The Downeast Fleamarket will be
the morning of Saturday, May 15/04

The Greenwood Amateur Radio
Club (GARC) PO Box 63,
Greenwood, NS BOP INO
Guy Campbell, VE1NC, president
Al Spurr, VE1ACK, vice-president
Phyllis Amero, VA1PR, secretary
Eric Smith, VE1CFY, treasurer

At the KCARC Annual General Meeting held February 2, 2004, the 2004 - 2005 KCARC Executive were elected as follows:

President - John Bickerton VE1ATT
Vice President - Phil Hopkins VE1PFH
Secretary - Lysle Anderson VE1BZE
Treasurer - Art Hamilton VE1ART

NSARA executive for 2003-2004:
President – Tom Cohoon, VE1TA
1st VP – Jim Hannon, VE1AFH
Treasurer - Shirley Cohoon, VE1JFG
Secretary – Bruce Harvey, VE1II

*Why do we need more than 2 meters
for local radio traffic? Well ...*

Exercises have taught us that VHF communications in a hospital environment is fraught with challenges due to the hospital equipment and other sources of interference. Furthermore, two meter frequencies are close enough to the communications used by MEDEVAC helicopters to cause interference. -ed.



Dave, VE1RCN , in his
chef's apron



Answer to puzzler on page 2

The lowest regulated radio frequency is 9 KHz
(Source RAC website VLF page)?

When the chips are down the buffalo is empty

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 50,

Once a "rare one," Albania (ZA) now will be a lot easier to work thanks to a program that incorporated Amateur Radio training into a university curriculum. The first-of-its-kind initiative has effectively doubled the ham radio population of the Balkan nation. **Project Goodwill Albania 2003** <<http://www.za1a.com>> also staged an international operating event that made thousands of contacts to provide the students with the chance to see Amateur Radio in action. (QSL via Project Goodwill Albania 2003, PO Box 73, 02380 Espoo, FINLAND.)

During the course, ZA1A, the station of the Albanian Amateur Radio Association, was on the air to demonstrate Amateur Radio to local telecommunications and education administrators as well as to the students. The program wrapped up with some fanfare Dec. 12 as the Polytechnic University of Tirana students took the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) <<http://www.cept.org/>> Class A Amateur Radio exam under the auspices of Albania's licensing authority. (39 new Albanian licensees) The university has said it plans to continue the program.

International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Chairman Ole Garpestadt, LA2RR also participated in final negotiations with Albanian authorities for the country's membership in CEPT and to bring Albania's amateur licensing regime into line with CEPT. This would provide amateurs visiting Albania and Albanians visiting abroad with paperwork-free reciprocal operating privileges.

The 5-week-long course used an advanced Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) study package as a reference. Some 50 professional educators from the US, the United Kingdom, Albania, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Macedonia, Spain & Sweden taught parts of the course. Most were from the DXing & contesting communities.

Among those supporting the educational effort were IARU Region

1, the Associazione Radioamatori Italiani (ARI), ARRL, RSGB, Israel Amateur Radio Club, Unión de Radioaficionados Españoles (URE) and the Northern California DX Foundation, as well as ham manufacturers Vertex-Standard (Yaesu) and Fluidmotion.

For more information visit the ZA1A Web site <<http://www.za1a.com>> and click on "Project Goodwill Albania 03."

--Martti Laine, OH2BH/Project Goodwill Albania 2004 provided information for this report

Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 48
MICHIGAN HAMS WIN ANTENNA EXEMPTION

Amateurs in Troy, Michigan, scored a major victory Nov. 24 by convincing the Troy City Council to reject the city planning commission's restrictions on the height of Amateur Radio antennas and antenna support structures.

Council accepted the proposal drafted by Mayor Matt Pryor and Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club HPARC President Phil Ode, AA8KR, that calls for an exemption of city regulation for structures up to 75 feet and compliance with federal preemptions regarding Amateur Radio.

In their presentation, 10 hams from HPARC and the Utica-Shelby Emergency Communications Association used ARRL's "Antenna Height and Communications Effectiveness" study <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/local/antplnr.pdf>> and ARRL's Amateur Radio Today CD presentation as part of its testimony. Troy Fire Chief Bill Nelson, KC8IWQ, also testified to the importance of Amateur Radio to his department's preparedness plans.

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 48
December 5, 2003

HAM ANTENNA SUPPORT STRUCTURES NOT MIGRATORY BIRD HAZARD, ARRL SAYS

The ARRL has asked the FCC to specifically exempt Amateur Radio antennas and support structures less than 400 feet tall from routine environmental processing relative to their impact on migratory birds. In reply comments filed Dec. 1/03 the League said there is no scientific evidence that antenna structures below that height contribute significantly to migratory bird mortality. ARRL told the FCC that the migratory bird issue often arises at municipal land use hearings and in the drafting of ordinances regulating antenna structures.

"At public hearings before city, town and county authorities, those who are opposed to communications antennas for aesthetic reasons typically raise issues such as migratory bird mortality as one of several arguments" against permitting antennas or limiting their placement," the ARRL comments said. "ARRL's research into the scientific literature reveals that communications towers below 400 ft are almost universally considered not to be contributors to bird mortality."

The League said typical ham radio fixed antennas and support structures are located mostly in residential areas and range from 50 to 120 feet.

ARRL said "The comments in this proceeding to date support the conclusion that communications towers less than approximately 400 ft do not contribute substantially to migratory bird kills," adding that no regulatory action is justified beyond what's already in place for aviation safety.

The Federal Wildlife Service concedes that "tower height alone may not necessarily be a critical issue that results in mortality" and that bird kills documented at tall TV towers might be due to the effects of tower lighting rather than height.

The first suspected criminal arrested with the help of Morse code was the infamous Dr. Crippen

From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 03
TWO AMATEUR SATELLITES EXPECTED TO LAUNCH IN 2004

AMSAT-NA President Robin Haughton, VE3FRH, says he's looking forward to the 2004 launches of AMSAT-NA's ECHO satellite <<http://www.amsat.org/amsat/sats/echo/index.html>> and AMSAT-India's Vusat (also known as "HAMSAT"). In his last President's Letter for 2003, Haughton reported that ECHO is passing final integration and testing with flying colors.

"I am looking forward to the end of March, when we expect the ECHO launch to take place," he said. With less than three months until the anticipated launch, AMSAT-NA still needs to raise more than \$60,000 for the launch campaign.

The new microsat-class satellite is undergoing integration and testing at SpaceQuest in Fairfax, Virginia. Jim White, WD0E, and Mike Kingery, KE4AZN, are heading up the integration process. Among its other capabilities, AO-ECHO will enable satellite voice communication using handheld FM transceivers.

The satellite will incorporate two UHF transmitters, each running from 1 to 8 W and capable of simultaneous operation, four VHF receivers and a multiband, multimode receiver capable of operation on the 10 meter, 2 meter, 70 cm and 23 cm bands. ECHO will feature V/U, L/S and HF/U operational configurations, with V/S, L/U and HF/S also possible. FM voice and various digital modes--including PSK31 on a 10-meter SSB uplink--also will be available.

Haughton reported that Vusat <<http://www.amsat-india.org/official/vusat.htm>>

experienced some problems in testing but these are being resolved. A VUSat launch could come as soon as late summer. VUSat will incorporate two linear transponders, with a UHF uplink and VHF downlink and CW, USB & FM capabilities.



From the ARRL Letter, Vol. 22, No. 50, December 19, 2003
FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO SOLICITS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Foundation for Amateur Radio Inc (FAR), a non-profit organization headquartered in Washington, DC, plans to administer 59 scholarships for the 2004-2005 academic year to assist radio amateurs. Comprised of more than 75 area Amateur Radio clubs, FAR fully funds seven of these scholarships with income from grants and its annual hamfest. The foundation administers the remaining 52 without cost to the donors.

FAR invites Amateur Radio licensees planning to pursue a full-time course of study beyond high school and now enrolled in or accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school to compete for these scholarships. Awards range from \$500 to \$2500. Preference in some cases goes to residents of specific geographical areas or to those pursuing certain programs of study.

Additional information and an application form is available by sending a letter or QSL card postmarked prior to April 30, 2004, to FAR Scholarships, PO Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738.

REMINDER

Have you changed your address?
 Got a new call sign?

We need to know your correct address to get the newsletter to you. Please inform Tom Caithness, VE1GTC, of any address changes.

RAC's web site is www.rac.ca

*Life may not
 be the party
 we hoped
 for, but
 while we are
 here we
 might as
 well dance.*

HARC Tube Bank Anyone looking for a particular tube or tubes should contact the Tube Bank Managers Amy Cohoon, Ashley Cohoon or Kim Carter by e-mail at .tubes@37.com or snail mail: 99 Hyson Point Rd.

Mahone Bay, N.S. B0J 2E0
 There is a nominal charge if we can supply the tube wanted.. Shipping/mailing is extra..

Islands on The Air - IOTA

The "Islands on the Air" is run by the RSGB and was started in 1964. The aim of IOTA is to encourage amateurs to travel to one of the many islands around the world to work other stations or islands. The group sponsors many different awards and a major contest in July. This year it is July 24th and 25th.

With summer fast approaching, it's time to start planning a trip to an island. There certainly is no shortage of islands here in the Maritimes. The best part is that you can drive to many of them. A lot of these islands have camp grounds or motels on them. No need to rough it!



In contrast there are many islands with no facilities. This requires travelling by boat so pre-planning is a must.



Since many of the islands also have lighthouses on them you can also give out the ARLHS lighthouse number as well as the IOTA number.

You can add to your fun by taking along a camera, taking some pictures of the island and making up your own special QSL card. You might like to submit a short article about your trip to the Reflector and include a picture.



If you would like more information check their web page at <http://www.rsgbiota.org/index.php4?countthis=1>

73, John. VE1CDD

